

## **Minutes of DAAC Meeting**

### **Call to Order**

Co-Chair Seren Derin called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

### **Attendance**

DAAC members present were Seren Derin, Co-Chair; Bernadette Hait, Jim MacRostie, Joan Rising and Joe Tringali

Others present were Jason Skeels, Town Engineer, Kris Pacunas, IT Director, Carolyn Holstein, DAAC staff liaison, and members of the public Dana Goddard and Jane Gamache

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Minutes - The minutes of the April 8 and 22, 2008 meeting were review. Ms. Rising made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Ms. Hait seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of April 8 and 22, 2008.

**Town Emergency Plan** – Kris Pacunas came to the meeting, but did not understand that the DAAC wanted to know how to register with Connect-CTY (the reverse 911 system). There is a link to Connect-CTY on the Town website, but folks don't know how to register. At present, citizens with disabilities can register with the local 911 system, but the Connect-CTY system can call particular groups of people, such as those with disabilities, in the event of emergencies.

Mr. Pacunas said that he wasn't familiar with the process of registering, and would come to another DAAC meeting with more information.

### **Public Sidewalks**

Jason Skeels, Town Engineer, presented plans for the proposed sidewalk renovations along North Pleasant Street, from the Amherst Brew Company to the Fire Station (south side), and the Fire Station (north side) to St. Brigids. He said that the sidewalks were planned for accessibility; the slope of the sidewalks will be leveled out, and the uneven up/down of the sidewalks will be leveled as well. The crosswalk at CVS will be changed a bit, as will the dip in the sidewalk just north of CVS, at the driveway between CVS and "Mr. Chicken", Barry Robert's building.

Mr. Tringali asked about widening the sidewalk from North Pleasant Street to the back of the parking lot behind. It's not wide enough for wheelchair access. Mr. Skeels said the walkway is on Barry Robert's property and is as wide as possible, since the driveway is so narrow too.

Mr. Tringali made a motion to recommend the sidewalk improvements along North Pleasant Street as presented by the Town Engineer. Ms. Hait seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to support the proposed sidewalk improvements.

### **Parking along North Pleasant Street**

Mr. Skeels presented two options of parking plans for the section along North Pleasant Street in front of "Mr. Chicken" and just north of CVS. In both cases, because the parking would be below the sidewalk, a ramp up to the sidewalk will be installed. The ramp would meet the AAB code.

- A. Three parallel parking places as is there now. This option would retain the ability to have trees between the sidewalk and the street as exists now. Mr. Skeels said that rods can be inserted into the blocks of concrete plus structural soil underneath to keep the concrete from buckling. Also, the trees are now planted with a stone/soil mix to

encourage the tree roots to go down, not horizontal and not interfere with the sidewalk.

- B.** Six diagonal parking places in the same area, including two van accessible spots. The diagonal parking would replace the trees, and the bicycle lane would have to jut out into the roadway a bit, but it would not interfere with the traffic flow.

The DAAC noted the lack of HP spaces along North/South Pleasant Streets. The committee agreed that the American Disabilities Act, as well as the goals of the Amherst "Disability Access Transition Plan" to provide equal access to all public facilities and ways would speak to Option B for diagonal parking with two van accessible spaces.

Mr. Tringali made a motion to support Option B for diagonal parking, provided the landing meets the ADA Code. Mr. MacRostie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to support Option B.

### **Other Access Issues**

The DAAC gave a list of road, sidewalk or ramp problems that the DPW could address. They included:

- The ramp for the mid-block crosswalk for the Jones library was constructed poorly and difficult to use. Mr. Skeels asked that the committee wait to demand fixing that, because it will be properly installed next year when the sidewalk along Amity is reconstructed.
- The van accessible spot at the Jones Library is sloped and the landing ramp is on the curb and out in the grass, very unstable.
- Kellogg and Main Streets both have tree root upheaval and need improvements. Ms. Derin asked about the CDBG money that had been dedicated for Main Street sidewalk improvements. An estimate had been prepared and given to Roy Rosenblatt. Mr. Skeels said that he did not know about it. Ms. Holstein said that she would look into how the CDBG funds are distributed.
- Mr. MacRostie said that the North Pleasant Street sidewalk from Mass Avenue at UMass to Triangle Street is in terrible shape with many cracks. Mr. Skeels said that after the area in front of Ren's Mobile is finished, the DPW will begin work on both sides of North Pleasant Street to the University. He agreed that the sidewalks are in terrible disrepair along North Pleasant Street.
- The Munson Library has a curb cut in front of the building along South East Street but none from South Congregation Church to the library. Ms. Derin said that for voting, the curb cuts need to be ADA accessible.
- The parking place behind the Monkey Bar does not have a wide enough stripped discharge area and is not really van accessible as marked. The stripped area should be several feet wider.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be July 15, 2008, at 3PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Holstein, staff liaison